

I have very kind letters
to say from dear Tracy
& two of the girls —

Yrs affly
H

8 Warrford Court.

Tuesday Afternoon
Dec. 23. 1856.

Your letter, my dear old
friend, has just reached me,
& I am sure you will never
think me indifferent to your
great kindness — And now as
to its contents — The offer
of £100 or £500 is equally
incompatible with the cost &
labour of collecting & preparing
such an Herbarium as mine,
but that is no element of my
present calculation, which
must be based upon the altered
& miserable position in which
I find myself, & which com-
pels me to dispose of it at all.

I do not doubt that there are
nearly 50 m. specimens, & even
assuming Mr. Brown's calculation
of 4000 species — which would give

on a liberal allowance, no more
than 10 m. Spec.^{ies} - there are in-
fined duplicates, from very varied
localities, about 4 times - that
number of specimens of which no
account is made! not any
thing allowed for 25 reams of
fine white paper, without counting
the stiff wrappers! However, as
I have said, I cannot help myself
& if better may not be done
perhaps it will be well to let
the Brit. Mus.^m have the Collec.ⁿ
at Prawn's offer, subject
however to its removal when
required ^{by themselves} at their expense - If
I send it to Burlington House,
it will cost me something consi-
derable in the removal, besides
the personal, & very painful
superintendance which I must
give to the matter - I confess
I had rather give it to the

Brit. Mus. than sell it for
£100 - but even this will be
of use to my poor babes when
I am gone, & I must lose sight
of the mortification of accepting
little more than the value of
the paper for the labour of
many years! Perhaps Prawn
would give me the bare cost
of the 2 Cabinets (£50) as they
are beautifully made & fitted -
If you think it best to counsel
Bell before concluding with
Prawn - in the hope of his sugges-
ting some better way of disposing
of the Herbarium, please to do so -
but, if not, I suppose for the
reasons I have stated, I had
better agree to Prawn's terms,
if better may not be - My
kind regards to Mrs. Pratt -